

REMARKS


Claims 1-30 and 38-47 are the only claims pending in the above-identified application. In the above-referenced Office action, claims 1-30 were allowed, the obviousness rejection of claims 38, 41-44 and 46-47 in view of Tanaka et al. was maintained, and dependent claims 39, 40 and 45 were again considered to contain allowable subject matter.

In response, Applicants amended rejected independent claim 38 to include the allowable limitation of dependent claim 39 which was also amended to be consistent with the amended recitation of its parent claim 38. Claim 40 dependent from amended claim 39 remains as originally filed. Also, rejected independent claim 41 was amended to include the allowable limitation of dependent claim 45 which was cancelled. Dependent claims 42-44 and 46-47 remain as originally filed.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 38 and 41 contain the allowable subject matter of their respective dependent claims 39 and 45 and, thus, are allowable for at least this reason. The remaining dependent claims of amended claims 38 and 41 contain the limitations thereof and, thus, are also allowable.

In view of the above, the instant application is considered in condition for allowance, and, therefore, an early issuance thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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